

# The Morning Calm Weekly

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July 23, 2004

## USFK announces hiring freeze on Korean employee positions

### U.S. Forces Korea

**YONGSAN** — U. S. Forces Korea has initiated a hiring freeze involving all Korean employee positions in the U.S. Army across the peninsula. The measure was taken July 15 by military officials to reduce the impact of an impending reduction-in-force in connection with 2nd Infantry Division consolidation plans, which are part of the Land Partnership Plan.

“With the consolidation of 2nd ID moving ahead in Area I north of Seoul, and the redeployment of 2nd ID’s 2nd Brigade to Iraq later this summer, authorities are carefully evaluating current conditions while planning for flexibility in future needs,” said

Lt. Col. Deb Bertrand, a USFK spokesperson.

“We are taking everything one step at a time, making every effort to minimize the impact on individuals, while still carrying out the mission and realigning the forces according to our agreements with the Republic of Korea. We believe the hiring freeze is a prudent measure to take toward reorganizing effectively at this particular point in time,” she said.

About 800 positions in Area I are expected to be abolished during the reduction-in-force. The Korean Employees Union has been given advance notice of changes that will affect the workforce within Area I. Eighth Army is working closely with the Korean Employees

Union by providing information on the loss of jobs as far in advance as possible to minimize disruption.

There are about 2,900 Korean employees in Area I.

The Civilian Personnel Operations Center will make every possible attempt to place the affected Korean employees in vacant positions throughout Korea, officials said. Reassignment rights may be to different jobs or to similar jobs in different locations. Employees involuntarily separated in a RIF may be entitled to extra money in addition to their normal severance pay package. In addition, many employees are also retirement eligible.

Under the freeze, vacant positions will not be filled with

new hires so that current employees affected by the reduction may be placed within the system.

“We recognize the turmoil that an action of this magnitude causes,” said Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell, chief of staff of USFK and commander of 8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army. “Our objective is to make every effort to accommodate our Korean employees as much as we can, and to make sure they have all the information they need as they move ahead in this process. Both the U.S. military and U.S. civilian workforces experienced this stressful transition as we went through reduction-in-force in the last decade in the (United States). It is not an easy adjustment, but we will do all we can to assist each of the dedicated individuals affected.”

### DA calls for Armywide inventory of unit personnel assets

#### 8th Personnel Command

**YONGSAN** — The Chief of Staff of the Army, has directed an Armywide Personnel Asset Inventory be conducted July 30 through Aug. 15 of all U.S. Army personnel.

The DA-directed PAI will account for 100 percent of all active- and reserve- component Soldiers whether assigned or attached. This includes all reserve-component soldiers on temporary active duty or mobilized in support of an operation. The PAI will reconcile and synchronize “boots on the ground” with all active component databases, specifically Enlisted Military Personnel Operations and the Total Army Personnel Database. Deploying units must conduct their PAI before departure from the mobilization station.

Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea commander, has directed that the PAI in Korea be expanded to account for all U.S. military and appropriated-fund Department of Defense and DA civilian personnel on the peninsula.

See PAI on Page 3

## Soldiers of the Year



PHOTO BY PVT. MICHAEL R. NOGGLE

(From left) Sgt. Samuel E. Cowell, Company B, 532nd Military Intelligence Battalion B, Spc. Wilfredo A. Mendez, Company A, 3rd Military Battalion, and Cpl. Kim Yoon-keun, 82nd Engineer Company wait to be presented Army Commendation Medals during the 8th U.S. Army Soldier of the Year competition. Read more about the competition on Page 16.

### What's inside...

**2ID Soldiers focus on Iraq mission**

See Page 5

**Seoul public transportation receives facelift**

See Page 10

**Hi-tech gadgets aid in law enforcement**

See Page 21

**Camp Carroll opens Child Development Center**

See Page 25

Commentary.....Page 2  
Blotters.....Page 2  
News and notes.....Page 3  
Movies.....Page 14  
Chaplain.....Page 15  
MWR Events.....Page 18

Commentary

Islam — Respect the faith, not the fanatics

By Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett

Religion is never a very easy topic to talk about. It tends to divide more than it unites.

Religion gets to the heart of what we believe and what we value, and strong emotions are wrapped around those beliefs and values. Even atheists strongly defend their right not to believe in God.

Down through history, religion has been used to justify great injustices, including war and genocide.

Today, one religion — Islam — is facing close scrutiny as its radical fringe terrorizes the world through violent attacks.

The White House has gone to great pains to ensure the War on Terrorism is not seen as a clash of religions. President George Bush made a point of praising Islam as “a religion of peace.” He invited Muslim clerics to the White House for Ramadan dinners and criticized evangelicals who call Islam a dangerous faith.

One such evangelist, Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham wrote, “Islam — unlike Christianity — has among its basic teachings a deep intolerance of those who follow other faiths.”

That Islam has produced its share of fanatics should come as no surprise. Every religion has its extremists, and there can be no denying that militant Islam’s rigid and intolerant orthodoxy is making the world a more dangerous place.

But is Islam itself the reason for terrorism, or is it something else? Has the backlash against terrorism created intolerance for Islam? And are those of us in the military doing enough to ensure that Muslims in uniform are enjoying the same tolerance of their faith as those from different religions?

Islam is the second largest religion in the world, totaling more than 1.3 billion believers. Less than 20 percent of the Muslims in the world are Arab, and all Arab countries have

populations that believe in other religions. Indonesia has the world’s largest Islamic population — 88 percent of citizens are Muslim.

In the United States, Islam is the fastest growing religion. There are currently five to seven million Muslims who are U.S. citizens.

There is also a substantial number of Muslims in the U.S. military; between 10,000 and 20,000 U.S. servicemembers consider themselves followers of Islam.

In the U. S. Army, Muslims are afforded the same rights to worship as any other religion.

“The Army tries to accommodate different religions,” said Col. Hanson Boney, Fort Eustis chaplain. “There have been Muslims in the Army for the past 40 years. There are times we can’t accommodate religions, like in times of war, but Muslims have no harder time worshiping in the Army than any other religion.”

Some Muslims are finding that the backlash against terrorism has made it harder for them to practice their faith.

Matthew Hicks, a Soldier in E Company, 71st Transportation Battalion, said he was “jumped” after 9-11. “People get the wrong idea about Muslims,” he said. “They think I’m a terrorist or going to blow something up.”

In 2002, Hicks changed his name from Abdulaziz Gazah so he wouldn’t have to face the prejudice associated with an Islamic name.

After joining the Army, Hicks also faced discrimination. “When I was in basic,” he said, “I told my drill sergeant that I wanted to attend Muslim service and he at first didn’t believe me and then started ranking on me, so I stopped going to the services all together.”

After that incident, Hicks decided he was not going to tell

anyone he is a Muslim. He arrived on Fort Eustis two weeks ago and had not even told his battle buddy about his Islamic beliefs.

One of the five pillars of the Muslim faith is to pray five times a day. As an initial entry Soldier, it has been difficult for Hicks to find time to pray.

“I have had zero time to pray,” he said. “But in the Islamic faith it is not so much that you have to pray, it’s if you have the time or make the intent. It is all about your intent.”

The Jacksonville, Fla., native who speaks Arabic said he joined the Army to work as a translator in the Persian Gulf.

“Most fights start from a misunderstanding,” Hicks said. “I’d like to go over there and help clear up some of those misunderstandings.”

Hicks, whose parents are from Saudi Arabia, said he spent some time in that country growing up, but that he is “born and raised American.”

“I am so loyal to the United States,” he said. “My grandfather served in the U.S. (Army) Air Corps and even when I was in Saudi Arabia I told everyone I was American.”

Despite a few isolated cases, Muslims who serve in the United States armed forces are proving their loyalty to this country. They should be afforded the same rights and privileges afforded their non-Muslim brothers in arms.

As Americans, we set the example. Let’s be sure that example is one that includes tolerance for people of all religious faiths.

**Editor’s note:** Bassett writes for the Fort Eustis Wheel newspaper.

E-mail commentary submissions to morningcalmweekly@korea.army.mil. Please keep submissions about a page in length and include your name, rank and duty station. The Morning Calm Weekly reserves the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

MP Blotter

The following entry was excerpted from the past several week’s military police blotters. These entries may be incomplete and do not determine the guilt or innocence of any person.

■ A servicemember and a Korean civilian became involved in a verbal altercation which turned physical when the servicemember threw a glass cup at the civilian, striking her in the mouth causing minor lacerations to her lips. The servicemember then fled the area. He was later apprehended by Korean National Police at his off-post residence and transported and transferred to a KNP station. The servicemember was transferred to the military police who transported the servicemember to a military police station where he was advised of his legal rights, which he waived, rendering a written sworn statement admitting to the offense. The servicemember was processed and released to his unit. An investigation continues by KNP.

Morning Calm Weekly Soundoff:  
What’s most important in keeping your morale high?



“Family and sports.” — 2nd Lt. Isaias Zamora, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 20th Support Group, Camp Henry



“The real world training not just by the manual” — Spc. Chris Mckearn, 1st Signal Brigade, Yongsan



“Frequent counseling with NCOs. They treat me like a family member” — Cpl. Park, Kyoo Chul, 1st Signal Brigade, Yongsan



“Knowing what I do everyday makes a difference and fits into the big picture.” — Pvt. Robert Waffle, Area IV Support Activity, Camp Henry

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Support and Defend

## NEWS & NOTES

### Gift Shop Closed

The Chosun Gift Shop is closed in July. It will reopen Aug. 4 and continue regularly scheduled hours:  
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### Free DMZ Tour for Students

High school and college students of U.S. military and civilian personnel and Department of State employees in Korea are welcome to a free demilitarized zone tour 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 4. The program includes historical briefings and tours of Tunnel No. 3, Observation Post Dora, Camp Bonifas and Panmunjom. Reservations are required. Call Nel de Leon, U.S. Forces Korea Public Affairs Office, 723-4685, or send e-mail to deleonc@usfk.korea.army.mil by July 26.

### COLA Increase

The Per Diem Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee recommended to the Military Advisory Panel an increase in Cost of Living Allowance for Korea. A 2-point increase in COLA allowance for all areas in Korea has been approved and is effective July 1. Refer to the per diem or 175fincom.korea.army.mil web site for service member specific increases in COLA allowance.

### Registration at Seoul American Elementary School

The main office at SAES is open to register children, Kindergarten through fifth-grade. For those who just moved in Seoul and are command sponsored to Yongsan or who missed reregistration, come to the Army Community Service Building, Room 121. For more information, call 736-4478 at SAES.

### Eighth United States Army G-4 Logistics Conference

The 8th U.S. Army G4 Logistics Conference will be held at the 8th U.S. Army Headquarters' Van Fleet Room Wednesday and the multipurpose training facility Thursday to July 30 on Yongsan Main Post.

Hosted by the 8th Army G-4, the symposium is a theater logistics orientation to key logistics personnel, information briefings on theater support organizations, current and future logistics issues to enhance theater logistics, lessons learned from current operations and a forum to raise critical logistical readiness issues.

Security clearance verification or command post Oscar badge is required prior to entrance to the Van Fleet Room for all secret briefings. There is a participation fee of \$8 for personnel planning to attend these events. For registration information, contact Capt. Kevin Heinonen, DSN 723-3270 or Capt. Ed Cook, DSN 723-4437.

### Contracting Command Closure

The U.S. Army Contracting Command-Korea will be closed 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 4 for the change of command from Col. Stephen Bianco to Col. Jeffrey Willey.

### Center Offers Services

The Digital Business Center is a resource for the entire Yongsan community. Located at South Post Building 8105 across from Starbucks, the center offers Internet access, cyber games, document printing, copying scanning, digital photo printing, fax services, PC software and hardware upgrades and repairs as well as office supplies and DVDs. Stop by the center today for a tour. The center is open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

## Why Korea is the Duty Assignment of Choice



Camp Carroll held a grand opening for its new Child Development Center on July 16. The facility opened for business on Monday. PHOTO BY KEVIN JACKSON

## FINCOM's KN MyPay helps civilians understand, control pay

### 175th Finance Command

**YONGSAN** — With more than 12,000 Korean civilians employed with the U.S. Forces Korea at military installations throughout the Korean peninsula, the 175th Finance Command created the KN MyPay system to provide privacy, quick availability, and easy access to one's Leave and Earning Statement. The site is designed to mirror the MyPay site accessed by Department of the Army and military personnel.

"In our continued effort to enhance our customer service, the 175th Finance Command has upgraded the KN MyPay system" said Col. Jeffrey Field, Commander of the 175th Finance Command. "We in the finance community have to go out and bring finance to those we serve. In this case, our customer base is the Korean National workforce."

Servicemembers can now access the new KN MyPay system at <http://175fincom.korea.army.mil> and then click on the KN Pay link located on the left side of the page under the Finance Services heading. The link takes visitors

of the Web site to a sub-page with six different categories.

■ The "KN Pay Table and Fringe Benefits" category takes visitors to a PDF document that lists the latest changes and benefits.

■ "KN Pay E-mail addresses" category lists the points of contact for e-mail questions base on KN pay ID number.

■ The "Old KN LES System" category provides a link to the old system and still available at <https://144.59.241.16.wknpay> until July 30.

■ The "New KN LES System and Q/A Bulletin Board" provides multiple functions under this link.

a. Access to the last 12 months of LES information including regular, bonus and severance pay is available.

b. Access to the most recent KN Pay news letters is provided.

c. Bulletin Board I shows Appropriated Fund and Nonappropriated Fund payroll information.

d. Bulletin Board II shows various KN Pay information.

e. Bulletin Board II also provides a

Question and Answer Board for employees. Those who have questions about KN Payroll System may submit.

5. The "KN Payroll Information" category provides a PowerPoint presentation explaining the payroll system for Korean employees.

6. The "Forms" category provides access to the basic finance forms.

To view LES information click on the New KN LES System link. Personnel enrolled in the program will need their Payroll Account Number (six digits) which will serve as their User ID and payroll number (3 digits) and the first 6 digits of their Korean ID which will serve as their password.

Minimum requirements for the program include Windows NT Work Station, Windows 2000 Professional, or Windows XP Professional. Computers must also have a Korean encoding program to view the LES which is written in Hangul. If there are any problems viewing the KN LES information, contact respective unit information management officers. For additional information about this initiative, contact respective local finance officers.

### PAI

The PAI requires that all units hold a muster formation to gain accountability. All personnel will be accounted for to include those on leave, TDY, confinement, etc. Once completed, the PAI will ensure the EMILPO database contains a record of every Soldier. The inventory will validate and correct personnel data and ensure the Unit Personnel Accountability Report, EMILPO and appropriate theater databases reflect the same information. Commanders are also required to identify and correct pay discrepancies and suspend the pay for those Soldiers whose duty status cannot be confirmed after conducting the required investigation.

Additionally, commanders will ensure Soldiers have current casualty documents (Department of Defense Form 93, Record of Emergency Data and SGLI Form 8286,

Servicemen's Group Life Insurance) on file. Commanders will verify, collect citizenship data and present the required documentation to support any changes to citizenship data.

Soldiers who are naturalized or non-U.S. citizens must provide additional information during PAI. These Soldiers must present their date of naturalization, naturalization certificate number, courthouse street, city, state, country, zip code and courthouse granting citizenship.

Unit voting assistance officers will be present to provide assistance in completing the Federal Post Card Application. In addition, commanders will afford and encourage all Soldiers the opportunity to complete absentee ballot and voter registration forms.

Contact respective unit commanders or S1s for individual unit scheduled PAI dates.

from Page 1

## 46,000 take eArmyU courses

Story by Courtney Hickson

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — More than 46,000 Soldiers have been able to continue their education by taking online classes through eArmyU, including many of the Soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army launched eArmyU in 2001, to offer eligible enlisted Soldiers the opportunity to work toward a college degree or certificate anytime, anywhere.

Soldiers who have been deployed continue to be able to work on their degrees from Afghanistan and Iraq. Of the 6,984 eArmyU Soldiers deployed in those theaters, 2,098 are now enrolled in eArmyU classes.

eArmyU is an educational opportunity for enlisted Soldiers to earn degrees online from one of 29 educational institutions. Soldiers can earn certificates, associate's, bachelor's or master's degrees in 146 degree and certificate programs. The courses are Web-based and allow Soldiers to take classes at any time, no matter where their location. In addition Soldiers can get full tuition reimbursement and a laptop to take the classes with, which becomes their own at the end of the program.

As of June 11 there have been 729 degrees conferred and 122,763 course enrollments. These numbers are up from January 2003 when there were more than 30,500 Soldiers taking classes around the world. The most popular eArmyU degrees are business followed by criminal justice, according to Director of eArmyU Dian Stoskopf. Currently 72 percent of Soldiers participating are enrolled in associate-level programs, 21.1 percent are signed up for bachelor's programs, 1.7 percent are signed up for master's programs and 5 percent are signed up for certificate programs.

One of the challenges Soldiers face when they are deployed is not knowing what kind of access they will have, said Gloria Kelsey a supervisory educational services specialist at Fort Benning.

"Also finding the time to study, they have long duty days with training," she said. "Or trying to pull from family time for study time."

"There are little to no out of pocket expenses," Kelsey said.

If a Soldier chooses to he or she can go to a school above the semester hour cap, like the University of Maryland and pay the difference. She also said the eArmyU is extremely beneficial for single parents because they can study at home and do not have to pay for a baby sitter.

There are 16 installations participating in the program, including those in Germany and Korea. The newest installations to offer the program are Fort Riley, Kan. and Fort Stewart, Ga.

With the expansion, Kelsey said it requires more counselors to get involved and know eArmyU, which will allow Soldiers when they transfer to have support from the staff

at the new installation.

Kelsey also said Soldiers can take their laptops with them if they are transferred and with eArmyU they can continue their educational experience.

"It really is anytime, anyplace," she said.

There are variations to eArmyU — for example the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea is piloting a no-laptop program.

"They have a difficult time traveling out of the area," Stoskopf said.

Because of the limitations in location, the choices for Soldiers in Korea are not as expansive as other installations. The no-laptop program allows the Soldiers to still participate in eArmyU, but they must provide their own access to a computer to log onto the courses. Stoskopf said the Soldiers are provided with a boot camp tutorial, which informs them about the eArmyU program and how to configure their personal computers to access the eArmyU portal.

A number of degrees and programs are available through eArmyU, to include associate's degrees, a bachelor's of arts, a bachelor's of science and various master's degrees. They range from an associate's degree in criminal justice to a bachelor's of science in professional aeronautics to a master's degree in business administration.

First Sgt. Dexter Dean, from Fort Benning, has been in eArmyU for about two years and has six more classes until he completes his associate's degree in criminal justice.

"So far it's been a good experience," he said.

Dean also said eArmyU is easy if a Soldier has a little computer literacy and can follow a syllabus. While he has not had to transfer bases while enrolled in eArmyU, he said there should be no problems for Soldiers who may.

Sgt. Erick Espinosa, from Fort Wainwright, said his experience with eArmyU has also been positive. Espinosa has been taking classes since February 2003 and needs only a few more classes to complete his associate's degree in criminal justice. He said some of it depends on the teachers also, and how quickly they respond but the majority has been good.

He said the biggest challenge he faced was sitting down and doing the class work while juggling his Army work.

"It is a great program; you get a free education and laptop if you do your work," he said.

In order to qualify for a laptop computer, 12 semester hours must be successfully completed; once completed the Soldiers will be able to keep the laptops given to them. In order to be eligible for the laptop version of the program, a Soldier must have three years of active duty remaining. If he or she is not interested in owning the laptop, he or she must have one year of service remaining.

***"It is a great program; you get a free education and laptop if you do your work,"*** — Sgt. Erick Espinosa

# 2ID Soldiers focus on Iraq mission

## Role players add realism to training scenarios

By Pfc. Chris Stephens

2nd Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

**RODRIGUEZ RANGE** — As the smoke cleared and the final gunshots went off near midnight, a look at the small Iraqi village of Al-Jamari told the whole story; four dead insurgents and a peace restored back to the village that had all but been lost during the day.

The village of Al-Jamari is different than most other Iraqi villages and towns. This village is not located in Iraq, but located at the Korea Training Center, where Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division are training in preparation for their deployment to Iraq in August.

“The training we’re receiving here is going to help us a lot in Iraq,” said Sgt. Kevin Holmes, B Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Air Assault). “We’re learning how to deal with Iraqi civilians and how to treat them with the proper respect, while also not compromising our mission.

The mission for units coming through the town was to find and detain terror cell leaders who live or are in the town and to also find weapons caches.

The townspeople were none other than their comrades from 1st Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

“Everyone involved wants to do the most they can to help 2nd Brigade make sure all of their guys come home safe,” said Capt. Nathan Breard, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment commander and the officer in charge of the civilians on the battlefield.

But, there was a slight problem for the Soldiers. During different points of the mission, they would

See [Iraq](#) on Page 8



PHOTOS BY YU HU-SON

Members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team wait during an exercise at the Korea Training Center.



Warrior Division Soldiers assume fighting positions at Rodriguez Range July 14.



Warrior Division Soldiers train July 14 at Rodriguez Range with role players during an exercise to add realism to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team

## NEWS &amp; NOTES

**Korean Pay Statements Online**

Leave and earnings statements for Korean employees are now available online. The statements can be viewed at 175th Finance Command's Web page, <http://175fincom.korea.army.mil>. Employees have the option to discontinue receiving paper copies of their statements.

**Eighth U.S. Army 10-Miler**

The 8th U.S. Army 10-miler run will be at the Hanson Field House July 31. Race-day registration begins 6:30 a.m. with a race briefing 7:30 a.m. The race will start 7:45 a.m. This is the qualifying race for the team that will represent 8th U.S. Army at the Army 10-miler in Washington, D.C., Oct. 24.

**Retirement Guide Online**

The Army Benefits Center-Civilian has made its "Guide to Retirement" available on the ABC-C Web site, <http://www.abc.army.mil>. The guide contains information for anyone who is considering retirement, no matter how close or far they may be. It can also help those who have just decided to retire, but do not know where to begin.

**Essay Contest**

The Korean Corporate Members of the Association of the U.S. Army are sponsoring a "Life in Korea" essay contest. Essays must be based on the author's personal experience in Korea, either socially or in the workplace. Entries must be submitted by Nov. 1, and prizes will be awarded Dec. 1. For more information, please call 732-6306.

**Air Defense Artillery Change of Responsibility**

The 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment will hold a change of responsibility and retirement ceremony for Command Sgt. Maj. Carl Johnson 10 a.m. Thursday at Camp Casey's Helipad 221. The ceremony will be followed by a reception at the Warrior's Club.

**Racquetball Championships**

The Korean Racquetball Federation will host the 12th World Racquetball Championships at the Anyang Youth Center and Seoul Cultural and Education Center July 31 through Aug. 6. Teams from Korea, the United States and 37 other nations will participate. Admission for all USFK personnel is free. For more information visit <http://www.racquetball.or.kr> or call 011-9152-1990.

**Newcomers Orientations**

The Army Community Service will hold Newcomers Orientations 8:15 a.m. Tuesday in the Camp Casey ACS and 8 a.m. Wednesday at the Camp Red Cloud ACS. For more information at 732-7292.

**National Kids Day**

The Camp Casey Army Community Service will host a National Kids Day event at Stewart Field 11 a.m. Aug. 6. There will be games and food.

**Women's Equality Day Run**

A Women's Equality Day run is scheduled 6 a.m. Aug. 25 for Area I and 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers at Camp Red Cloud.

## Area I observes safety stand-down day

By David McNally

Area I Public Affairs Office

**CAMP RED CLOUD** — Across Area I Soldiers and civilians halted work Tuesday for an intense review of summer safety concerns in a semiannual 8th U.S. Army stand-down day.

"The summer season is a period when there is a tendency for accident prevention programs to be given less attention," said Col. Jeff Christiansen, Area I commander. "For this reason, we should place emphasis on imaginative education and training programs designed to create safety awareness."

At the Camp Red Cloud Theater, Area I Soldiers and civilians discussed topic such as heat injuries, human trafficking, prostitution and cross-cultural awareness.

The purpose of the training day went beyond safety, Area I officials said.

"It's also an opportunity to teach, educate and inform Soldiers about command priorities and messages," Christiansen said.

Christiansen emphasized the Army's intent to develop a sense of cultural awareness by promoting dignity and respect.

"The end state is a commandwide sense of renewal and recommitment to the Korea-U.S. alliance," Christiansen said.

Lt. Gen. Charles Campbell, the 8th U.S. Army

commanding general, opened the day with a prerecorded 10-minute message.

Campbell said the overall theme of the new horizons day was to "master the craft." He outlined a familiar message of developing the warrior ethos.

"We are at war," Campbell said. "The threats are real."

He said leaders should create a culture of safety and continuous risk management.

The mandatory four-hour morning training included a 30-minute video, "This is Korea."

"Cultural awareness enhances mission readiness," Campbell said.

Soldiers and civilians reviewed many topics:

- Prostitution and human trafficking
- Prevention of sexual assault
- Driving under the influence prevention
- Curfews, customs laws, operational and information security

- Voting assistance

- Good neighbor program

Soldiers also reviewed convoy procedures and safe movements.

Campbell said the 8th U.S. Army is a "learning organization." He said besides being an "assignment of choice," Korea is the U.S. Army's training base for future Army leadership.

Email [david.mcnally@us.army.mil](mailto:david.mcnally@us.army.mil)

## CRC community sees leadership transition

Story, photo by  
Pfc. Stephanie Pearson

Area I Public Affairs Office

**CAMP CASEY** — The Uijeongbu Enclave welcomed a new leader in a ceremony July 15.

Lt. Col. William Huber took command of U.S. Army Garrison, Camp Red Cloud in a Village Green ceremony as the unit bid farewell to outgoing commander Lt. Col. Brian Vines.

"This morning's change of command ceremony is not as simple

as it may seem on the surface, because it affects more than just the soldiers that are assembled on the field," said Col. Jeff Christiansen, Area I commander. "This change will have a huge impact on the 2nd Infantry Division and the well-being of the Soldiers and Airmen assigned to this enclave. What this garrison does on a daily basis has a direct impact on the readiness of these units to fight tonight."

"Brian departs today having postured this garrison to be recognized as the community of excellence,"

Christiansen continued. "Brian, you leave behind a legacy of your efforts, and we will carry on with the vision you have established. Well-done and good luck."

"Lieutenant Colonel Bill Huber now stands at the helm, firmly clenching the colors," said Christiansen. "Another great leader, an officer ready to lead this enclave of excellence, Lieutenant Colonel Huber comes with a wealth of experience. He is recognized for his ability to lead a diverse work force and solve the

See **Transition** on Page 8



Lt. Col. William Huber (left) accepts the U.S. Army Garrison, Camp Red Cloud colors and mantle of leadership from Area I Commander, Col. Jeff Christiansen July 15 at the CRC Village Green.

## Family assistance center prepares for certification

Story by David McNally

Area I Public Affairs Office

**CAMP CASEY** — As Soldiers prepare to deploy from Korea to Iraq, Army officials are preparing for every possible scenario their family members could encounter.

“If a Soldier has been wounded or killed in combat, how is the family notified?” asked Col. Thomas DeVine, 2nd Aviation Brigade commander and the officer responsible for 2nd Infantry Division families. “What are the actions of the family assistance center and what are the services provided to the family?”

DeVine led a July 15 meeting of community officials from various agencies in Area I, finance and personnel representatives, and division staff officers at Camp Casey. He outlined what the group needed to do to prepare for the family assistance

center and 2nd Brigade Combat Team Rear Detachment certification that was scheduled yesterday.

“I want a rigorous and robust certification exercise,” DeVine said. “This will encompass everything that is supporting the families.”

Area I is a command-sponsored restricted zone. However, some Soldiers marry locally or arrange to bring their families to Korea on their own.

To aid these families 2nd Infantry Division and Area I officials joined together last month to develop the Desert Strike Family Assistance Center at Camp Casey. The center will work closely with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team to support families affected by the deployment.

“If a family member has a problem with finance or personnel during the deployment we would try to help them,” said Maj. John Atkins, rear

detachment commander.

Some agencies such as the USO, Pear Blossom Cottage and Army Community Service already provide life support help for these noncommand-sponsored families in Area I; but, most facilities operate with unaccompanied Soldiers in mind. The family assistance center is a new concept in Warrior Country.

The certification exercise will simulate what different agencies will do under possible scenarios. The Installation Management Agency-Korea Region will evaluate garrison activities. DeVine will evaluate the rear detachment. The 8th U.S. Army will test how the group handles casualty actions.

“At this end of this exercise, we should know if we’re ready,” DeVine said.

DeVine also said officials are in the process of awarding a contract for the

development of a virtual family readiness group Web site.

Officials hope the Internet site will serve as a virtual gathering location for 2nd Brigade Combat Team family members to visit and share information — even family members in the states.

“I’m worried about the families in the states,” DeVine said. “I want them to get information about what we’re doing, points of contact, the Web site or any other deployment information.”

DeVine expects the Web site to be online by the end of the month.

Before the Soldiers depart, he said, he envisions a station where they fill out an envelope with their home addresses.

“We then would stuff it with maybe a letter from the rear detachment, or anything else we want to pass along like the Web site address and points of contact,” DeVine said.

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## Camp Casey Health Clinic shines

Story by David McNally

Area I Public Affairs Office

**CAMP CASEY** — The 18th Medical Command recently named the U.S. Army Health Clinic, Camp Casey as the best in Korea.

But Warrior Country health care providers have even more to celebrate: their accreditation.

An outside, nonprofit accreditation agency evaluated practices and standards within the 18th Medical Command in April. This was the first time the Casey clinic was included in the process.

Officials at the clinic said they work with many different agencies and units. The medics mostly come from outlying units.

The staff pulls together a day-to-day operation where patients receive care and are usually unaware of the clinic’s unique organization.

Recent advances in medical technology have allowed for almost instantaneous X-rays. The radiology department keeps its high-tech computers working hard. The staff sees 460 to 480 patients a month.

“Before we had film, with processing chemicals and development time,” said Spec. Araceli Walker, a medic from Company C, 702nd Main Support Battalion. “Now, we use these special plates that can be used thousands of times. We put it in the scanner, and instantly see the X-ray on the computer.”

The staff emails these X-ray images to radiologists with the 121st General Hospital at Yongsan. What took hours, or even days, now takes minutes.

One of the staff radiology technicians, Yi Chong, has worked at the clinic since 1983. He said he enjoys the challenge of new technology, and the opportunity to meet new people.

“I get to work with a lot of new Soldiers,” said Yi. “It gives me a chance to share what I know. I like it.”

The Camp Casey Health Clinic has a staff optometrist. The eye doctor examines about 250 Soldiers a month.

Active-duty Soldiers may receive one pair of glasses with the frame of their choice every 12 months. Retirees are limited to the brown field frames. While the department provides routine services to family members, they are only authorized examinations

and prescriptions. Glasses must be purchased elsewhere.

Officials said they are able to handle most situations, but they can get patients to the 121st General Hospital for specialty care.

The clinic’s community health nurse, Maj. David Marana, spends most of his time on two issues: sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis.

“Both of these health problems are prevalent,” Marana said.

In Korea, tuberculosis is common. It is an airborne disease contracted by being near someone who breathes it out. Tuberculosis testing is available as needed. Marana said it must be done within 60-days of leaving Korea, but not later than two-weeks before.

Marana said STDs are what keep him busy, although the infection rate for Soldiers serving in Korea is comparable to American rates for men and women ages 20 to 24.

“One of my biggest challenges is contacting Soldiers for follow-up care,” Marana said. “Because of the high operations tempo it can be difficult.”

Marana said STDs are preventable.

“I counsel Soldiers, and try to educate them about prevention,” Marana said.

One of the misconceptions people have about STDs, Marana said, is that contraction happens in only in off-post club environments. But, STDs also happen through sexual contact with anyone, he said.

The Camp Casey Health Clinic has an aggressive preventive medicine education program. However, responsibility for prevention lies with the individual, Marana said.

Officials said now the clinic has the “stamp of approval” that happens with accreditation, they can tell their patients they are getting a credible level of care.

Health care officials said they want the community to know they put a lot of time, effort and money to make the clinic a better facility.

“Our equipment, training, and the processes used to provide health care, are geared to give the best possible experience to our patients,” said Maj. Barbara Agen Ryan, a former officer-in-charge of the clinic.

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### Do the hula, hula!



PHOTO BY MARGARET BANISH-DONALDSON

Agnes Matila, one of the Polynesian dancers from Ma Ohi Nui, performs a traditional Hawaiian dance for crowds gathered July 13 at Camp Red Cloud’s Mitchell’s club. The 13-member world-class entertainment group provided a show filled with colorful Polynesian dance revues, featuring dances of the Hawaii, Tahiti, New Zealand and Samoa islands, costume changes, fire dances, emceeing, and audience participation.

## Iraq

from Page 5

receive sniper fire and have to deal with both friendly and angry villagers. Combined with trying to complete their mission, the Soldiers experienced a long day.

“At one point we had Soldiers searching homes, Soldiers keeping civilians out of the search area, villagers moving our concertina wire and explosions going off, so it got very hectic,” said Pvt. Anthony Hottinger, Company B., 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Air Assault). “There were so many things going on, so our company had to be on top of our game. We had to have people in all of the right positions, plus ensure that not only we stay safe, but the villagers as well.”

During the whole process, villagers were out and about in the town curious to see what was going on.

“Our job is to create a realistic training environment for the Soldiers, and to replicate an Iraqi town with a variety of scenarios,” Breard said. “We had to put stress on the Soldiers, so they could train on what they will be seeing over there.”

At many points during the training, villagers became irritated with the Soldiers and started to do things their own way.

“They didn’t want to stay away from the action,” said Pvt. Michael McMillan. “They always wanted to see what was going on. And, if we prevented them from seeing what was happening, then they created their own ways of getting there.”

Some of the ways villagers got past the Soldiers was using the riverbed, using a group of ten to push past a Soldier or the most commonly used technique, sprinting past them.

“A few of the townspeople got through and caused a little disruption, but we controlled the situation and detained them and turned them over to the town’s police, and let the police deal with them,” Hottinger said. “But, these people never gave up. They just kept coming.”

After the entire scenario was complete, Soldiers listened to what was being said in their after-action review and took in key points made by their leaders.

“I learned two big things out here,” McMillan said. “One, you never push them with your left hand, because they consider that disrespect, and two, when you want them to do something, you have to show them through motions, and not by raising your voice, because most of them don’t understand English.”

The Soldiers playing the civilians on the battlefield read Iraqi cultural packets and researched a variety of topics to prepare for their roles. But, all of the reading in the world couldn’t have prepared them for what they experienced in their roles and what they learned from actual Iraqi citizens about what really goes on there.

“It’s important for these Soldiers to know what reality is,” said Swara Deloyi, Iraqi civilian playing a role in the town. “That’s what we try to help the supporting units understand when they are playing these roles. Because over there, the roles are real and the bullets are real. It’s not a joke.”

Although the Soldiers from 1st Brigade were tasked out to play the roles of Iraqi civilians, lessons were learned on their part as well for when they are in the same situation as the 2nd Brigade Soldiers.

“The Soldiers playing civilians on the battlefield have a big advantage because they see it from an Iraqi perspective,” Breard said. “Because they have seen it from this side, they know the right way to do things when dealing with Iraqi civilians.”

With the training they’ve received, the 2nd Brigade Soldiers seem ready for their deployment.

“We know what we have to do over there and we’ll be ready to do it,” Holmes said.

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## Transition

from Page 6

where he served as a weapons-of-mass-destruction liaison for the Ministry of Defense.

“Commanders, you and your Soldiers are the very best,” he said in his address to the troops. “Your accomplishments are impressive and speak highly of your commitment to serve your country. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.”

Huber promised to continue in efforts to improve the garrison, and thanked Christiansen and Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald, Installation Management Agency-Korea Region director, for this opportunity.

“I will work to maintain your trust and strengthen your confidence while in command by giving 110 percent effort in leading this outstanding organization,” Huber said.

Vines, who continues his military

service with the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., offered his congratulations to Huber.

“Bill, good luck to you, and I must say I’m envious of the job and the team that you are now in command of,” Vines said.

Christiansen is confident Huber is the man for the job.

“The Army has done right in selecting Bill for this challenge,” he said, “and it will be the most challenging of any of his assignments. I also assure you, Bill, that the dedicated Soldiers and civilians that make up this garrison are loyal, confident and will place in you the same level of support they have provided your predecessor. Much has been done in the past two years, but as I have been saying, in Area I, which is second to none, the work is never done.”

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## Service organizations aim to care for veterans



### Benefits and Entitlements for Retirees Part Two

Story by Alex Harrington

Area II Public Affairs Office

**YONGSAN** – The Department of Veterans Affairs ensures active-duty servicemembers, retirees, and veterans receive benefits and medical treatment. There also are many veterans and military groups who ensure those eligible receive adequate healthcare, claims service, advocacy and additional benefits.

Among those veterans and military groups in Korea are the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Retiree Activities Office.

Since 1899, the VFW, America's oldest major veterans organization, has been advocating and providing personal assistance, securing government benefits and entitlements for veterans. Working alongside the RAO, which is located on Osan Air Base, it has provided post-retirement services to retirees of all services, their family members and survivors.

The primary function for both the VFW and RAO is to provide assistance in obtaining benefits from the VA.

According to a brief, "Answering the call in a time of crisis," the VFW veterans service officers has filed more than 125,000 VA claims and helped recover more than \$800 million in benefits and entitlements for American veterans.

"We assist veterans with everything from filing a VA claim to obtaining educational benefits," said William Bradshaw, director, VFW Washington office.

Conversely, nearly 400,000 veterans are waiting word on their VA claim, but the VFW continues to lobby Congress to find a remedy to this issue, according to the brief.

VFW Commander in Chief Edward Banas said before a joint hearing comprised of both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, "The reduction of the claims backlog and the timely processing of those claims have been well-stated goals of this administration, but VA has not sufficiently processed veteran's claims, thus creating a backlog."

Banas added that the number of increased backlogged claims is preventing disabled veterans from receiving timely decisions for the compensation and pensions they frequently need to offset economic hardships related to their disability.

See **Veterans** on Page 11

# Seoul public transportation receives facelift, modernizes



As part of the Seoul City's plans to improve public transportation, the newly renovated median bus lanes are now fully operational. Median bus lanes have been built in the middle of major downtown roads and are reserved for public transportation use only.

Story, photo by Pfc. Park Jin-woo

Area II Public Affairs Office

**YONGSAN** — The buses and subways have a new look for regular commuters in the Yongsan area as a result of Seoul's public transportation facelift. The city completed the changes July 1.

Seoul city has introduced new changes

and services to offer faster and more convenient transportation for Area II commuters, which is all part of a drive to encourage citizens to use public transportation to reduce the number of personal vehicles and reduce traffic on the streets, said Seoul metropolitan government officials.

Some of the changes are new median lanes, which are exclusively used by buses, new bus routes, different numbering and coloring system that helps identify buses, a distance-based fare system and a new traffic card named "T-money."

Although the new bus system caused much confusion, bus riders are adjusting, according to Korean media reports. There were complaints due to lack of advertising, but the system is well under way now with minor adjustments, reports said.

"I was quite troubled at first because of the rise in fares and unexpected problems that came with the system," said An Sun-mo, a university student living in Seoul. "But I think Seoul city has been quick to resolve the many problems associated with the new change. I think we still need to wait and

see how this new system turns out."

Most drivers have indicated they think that the new system will benefit the city in the long haul.

Lee Jong-un, a driver on route 401, has cited improvements in the bus system and says, "Younger riders have been quicker to adjust to the changes."

### Distance-based system

Bus and subway fares now go by a new fare system called "Distance-based system." The fees differ depending on the distance traveled, according to officials.

For instance, under the new fare system passengers who use the bus and subway will be charged a base fare of 800 won for 12 kilometers (seven miles), after which 100 won will be charged for each additional six kilometers (four miles).

Under the new fare system passengers will not be required to pay an additional fare for each time they transfer from bus to subway or vice versa.

### T-money

To qualify for fare discounts passengers need a prepaid transportation card, better known as "T-money."

T-money cards that can be purchased and refilled at newsstands and kiosks at most bus stops.

Another option is to go directly to the subway station ticket window, or use the automated refilling machines located at each subway station, to purchase and refill the "T-money" card.

The cost of the "T-money" card is 1,500 won and can be charged with as much money as one wishes upon purchase.

### Fare discounts

Students aged 14 to 19 receive a 20 percent subway fare discount when using the transportation card. Children aged 8 to 13 receive a 50 percent discount.

### New bus color

Buses also have been given a new coat of paint in red, yellow, blue and green colors, symbolizing the routes and areas where they operate.

Red buses go to the outskirts of the city linking downtown Seoul area and major sub centers such as Bundang and Sungnam.

Yellow buses serve as a circular line running along the circular belt roads in downtown or sub centers.

See **Transportation** on Page 10

**Blue Bus (Main Line)**  
Rapid inter-regional transportation along main lines

- Three Digit Number: 1 0 1
- Departure Zone + Arrival Zone + Consecutive Numbers (0-9)

**Green Bus (Branch Line)**  
Linking main lines and subway trains inside a region

- Four Digit Number: 1 2 1 1
- Departure Zone + Arrival Zone + Consecutive Numbers (11-99)

**Red Bus (Wide Area Line)**  
Rapid transportation between metropolitan areas and cities in Gyeonggi Province

- Four Digit Number: 9 1 9 1
- 9 (Wide Area Number) + Departure Zone + Consecutive Zone (00-99)

**Yellow Bus (Circular Line)**  
Circular line transportation inside urban centers and metropolitan subcenters

- Two Digit Number: 0 0
- Zone Numbers (0-7) + Consecutive Numbers (1-9)

A new bus number code identifies bus routes. Now the passengers can recognize where the bus is coming from and where it is headed.

NEWS & NOTES

**Women's Summer Bible Study and Fellowship**

There are Protestant Women of the Chapel and Military Council of Catholic Women sessions for worship, bible study and fellowship 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Wednesday - Aug. 4 at South Post Chapel. For more information, call 796-5982.

**National Kids' Day**

The Area II will celebrate National Kids' Day 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Aug 1 at the Seoul American Elementary School. For more information, call 738-5556.

**Radio Town Hall**

Area II radio town hall meeting will be broadcast live 9 - 10 a.m. Aug. 13 from the Army Community Service Building, Building 4106, Room 118. For more information, call 738-5017.

**American Forces Spouses' Club**

The American Forces Spouses' Club is seeking organizations or clubs who would be interested in setting up an information table at its annual welcome and sign-up reception. The welcome and sign-up reception will be 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Dragon Hill Lodge. For more information, call 736-8119.

**SNGC Nominations**

Sung Nam Golf Club is seeking nominations for six at-large members. Candidates must be advanced green fee members. Nominations are open to active-duty, DoD civilians or family members. Please submit short profile - name, membership #, contact information and short statement why you want to serve on the council. For more information, call 738-7446.

**Commander's Hotline**

A Commander's hotline e-mail address, arealitownhall@korea.army.mil, is available. For more information, call 738-5017.

**Korea Theater Support Center**

Korea theater support center is available. Dial 8324 for e-mail problems, GCCS-A trouble and Internet issues. It is not necessary to dial the any prefix.

**ACAP Briefings**

Army Career and Alumni Program briefings usually last about one-half hour depending on unit participation. They are usually held 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Other times and dates can be arranged. For more information or to schedule a briefing, call 738-7322.

**Voter registration**

Voter registration has begun in Area II. For more information, contact a unit voting assistance officer.

**Language Classes**

English as a second language class meets every Monday and Wednesday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Building 4106, Room 124.

Korean language class meets 10 - 11 a.m., 11 a.m. - noon, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at Building 4106, Room 124. These classes are open to all ID card holders. To register please call 738-7505.

Transportation

from Page 9

Blue buses operate on major roads such as Dobongno and Gangnamdaero traveling between the major areas of the city.

Green buses branch out from other lines serving the routes between subway stations and residential areas.

**Bus number code**

Passengers, to include foreigners, can easily identify the starting point and the destination of a bus at a single glance, according to Seoul officials.

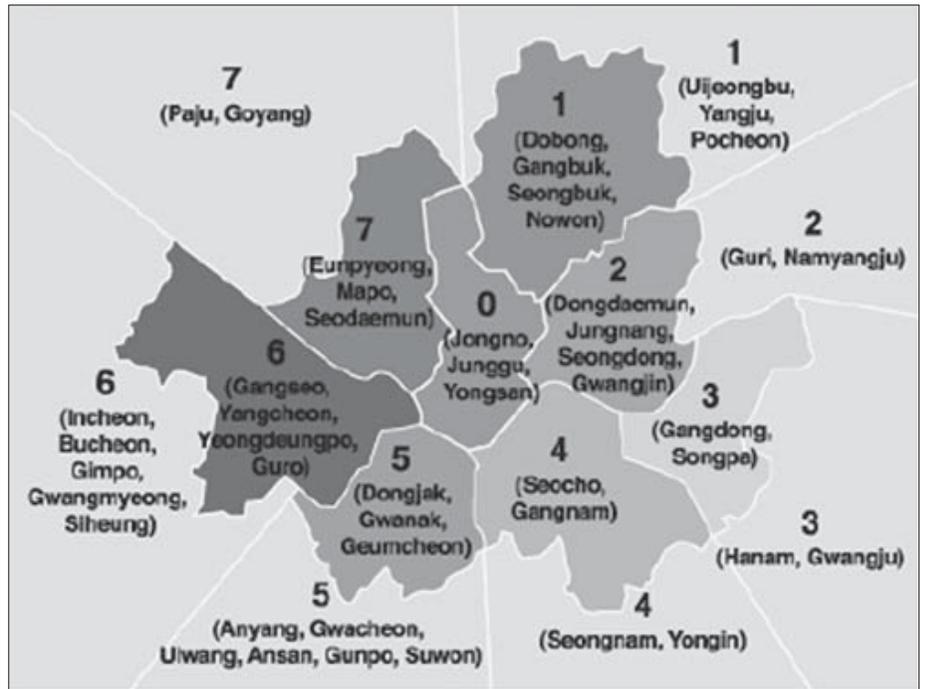
The principle behind the new number code is dividing the area of Seoul is divided into eight zones. The first two digits of the bus number show where the bus departed from and where it arrives at and the next two are used to identify the bus.

**Median bus lanes**

One major change in the bus system is the newly renovated median bus lane.

Lanes going through the middle of the road have been put aside for buses and islands with bus stops have been made for access to the buses. According to the Seoul city government this new system will provide safer access to buses by isolating the buses away from other traffic.

This will also improve overall traffic



The city buses now operate in eight numbered zones.

conditions for both buses and other vehicles as buses no longer have to pull up over to the side of the road and halt for passengers, officials said.

Under the new system left-turns will remain unchanged and can be made from the second lane at an intersection. For safety reasons, U-turns will be replaced

with P-turns or L-turns.

For more information about the new bus system including all bus roots in Seoul, visit the Seoul metropolitan government webpage at <http://english.seoul.go.kr/>

E-mail ParkjinW@korea.army.mil

**Subway fare**

Type of passenger	Fare (when using transportation card)	
Adults (over 20)	Inside Seoul	Less 12km : 800 won 12km - 42km : extra 100 won for additional 6km over 42km : extra 100 won for additional 12km
	Outside Seoul	Less 10km : 800 won 10km - 35km : extra 100 won for additional 5km over 35km : extra 100 won for additional 10km
Students (14 to 19)	20% discount (640 won)	
Children (8-13)	50% discount (400 won)	
Senior members, The handicapped & Men of national merit	100% discount (Free)	

**Bus fare**

Type of Bus	Type of passenger	Fare (when using Transportation Card)
Blue Bus Yellow Bus	Adults (over 20)	800 won
	Students (14 to 19)	640 won
	Children (8-13)	400 won
Green Bus	Adults (over 20)	500 won
	Students (14 to 19)	400 won
	Children (8-13)	250 won
Express Bus	Adults (over 20)	1,400 won
	Students (14 to 19)	1,120 won

For more information, please contact the Transportation Planning Division (transp@seoul.go.kr / +82.2.6321.4218)

Subway (left) and bus fares (top) have been changed along with Seoul's new public transportation policy. Commuters must recognize those changes to avoid confusion in rush hours. Charts only apply to Transportation card users.

Keeping the peace



Spec. Dennis Peters maintains security at a blocking position in Mosul, Iraq, under the friendly gaze of Iraqi children. Peters is assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment (Stryker Brigade Combat Team).

PHOTO BY SGT. JEREMIAH JOHNSON

Experience  
Greater Seoul

## Cultural Events, Tours and Entertainment

### USO Tours

- Carribbean Bay Tour – 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday
- Incheon Tour – 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday
- Panmunjom (DMZ) and Tunnel – 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday
- Incheon Pottery Tour – 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thursday
- Cultural Tour – 8:40 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. July 31

For more information, call the Seoul USO office at 02-792-3380.

### Royal Asiatic Tour

- Pyonsan Bando and Pagoda Valley Tour – Saturday and Sunday
- Tongyoung and Kojedo Tour – July 31 - Aug 1
- Pugak Skyway and Inwang-San Hike Tour – 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Aug. 14
- Triple Treat Tour : Olympic Park, Han River Cruise and the DLI 63 Building – 1:30 - 8:30 p.m. Aug. 14.

Call 02-763-9483 for more information about Royal Asiatic Society events.

### Entertainment

- Great Mountain Music Festival will be held at Yongpyong Ski Resort Saturday - Aug. 8. For more information, call 02-724-7781.
- Ice ballet Nutcracker will perform at the Sejong Center Monday and Tuesday 3 p.m., 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 3 p.m., 6 p.m. July 31 - Aug. 3. For more information, call 02-3472-4480.

For more information, call 02-523-8702.

## Veterans

from Page 9

In spite of increased backlogs, VFW service officers continue to expedite disability claims within 90 days, as opposed to the usual six to nine months if veterans filed by themselves.

Volunteers at the RAO also provide assistance to retirees and veterans who are experiencing problems with benefit claims.

In addition, the RAO handles other cases not necessarily involving retirees and veterans.

“The RAO is a volunteer and the benefits provided are in the form of assistance in resolving problems,” said Jack Terwiel, director and volunteer at RAO. “In many cases, the assistance extends far beyond the normal, such as for former spouses of active-duty and retired military, and other nonmilitary employees such as AAFES in filing for Social Security.”

Quarterly newsletters, dealing with the Defense Finance

and Accounting Service and processing Social Security claims are other functions that the RAO provides to retirees and veterans, to include federal general service employees.

RAO provides information to the retiree community on news concerning pay and benefits through their monthly publications, both written in English and the Korean language, said Terwiel.

“We provide a quarterly newsletter for retirees called, ‘Still Serving in Korea.’ In addition, because there are so many Korean widows of deceased retirees, a quarterly Korean-language newsletter is produced specifically aimed at survivor benefits and other news directed to the widow community,” he said.

Another function the ROA performs is mediating between the claimant and DFAS in Cleveland, Ohio.

“Rather than expensive phone calls to busy phone lines, the RAO has established e-mail contacts with both retiree

representatives and annuitant representatives to resolve pay problems,” said Terwiel. “Most of the problems concern updating addresses, establishing or changing direct deposit, or, in tax season, getting replacement 1099-R forms for forms not received.”

Terwiel also added that RAO processes Social Security claims for retirement, disability and survivor benefits.

“The VFW here in Korea conducts charitable fundraisers, supports Korean orphanages and provides assistance to disabled veterans,” said Ronald Davis, VFW District III commander in Korea.

For more information about the VFW, visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). For the local VFW call 723-4930.

For more information about RAO, visit [www.rao-osan.com](http://www.rao-osan.com) or call 784-1441.

E-mail [alex.harrington@us.army.mil](mailto:alex.harrington@us.army.mil)

# Government enforcing Reservists' reemployment rights

Story by Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

**YONGSAN** — Several government agencies are working together to aggressively defend the reemployment rights of Reserve-component service members.

Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, Reserve and National Guard troops cannot lose their jobs or their benefits due to military service.

In other words, reserve Soldiers and Guardsmen who are deployed are guaranteed their previous civilian jobs or similar jobs with the same level of benefits when they return. Employers who fail to comply are in violation of federal law and can be sued by the U.S. government.

U.S. Special Counsel Scott J. Bloch is charged with prosecuting federal agencies that fail to comply with the tenets of USERRA. Bloch today visited the Pentagon to pledge his vigilance in these duties. He signed a statement of support for the Guard and Reserves on behalf of federal employers.

Leaders of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve

Affairs spoke at the ceremony.

Assistant Defense Secretary for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall compared the overwhelming support for today's troops with his own days as a sailor during the Vietnam era. Hall said that in 21 months in his current position, he has had the opportunity to speak to at least 120,000 people around the country and abroad.

"Everywhere I go, I find a different spirit than perhaps existed in my younger years in the Navy. ... Controversy rocked the country, and many of our young men and women who came back from Vietnam ... weren't welcomed," Hall said. "But what is not lacking today," he continued, "is support from the rank and file, from the businesses and from the community."

ESGR's national director, Bob G. Hollingsworth, told those gathered, "America's employers have rallied around (the troops) in an incredible way." The employers realize "they are inextricably linked to the national defense of our nation," he said.

Hall explained in an interview that employers of reserve-component troops are vital to the future of the National Guard and reserves, and thus America's interests. "It's very key to young men and women having the

confidence and their families having the confidence that when they go off to answer the call to colors, when they return they will have a job waiting for them," he said.

Bloch is especially committed to serving as an advocate for service members because his son, 19-year-old Marine Lance Cpl. Michael Bloch, is preparing to leave his home base of Twentynine Palms, Calif., for a second rotation in Iraq.

"As a member of the administration, I support USERRA," Bloch said before signing the statement of support. "But I also support it as a citizen and as a father of an active-duty Marine.

"Our commitment ... is the least that we can do to send a message to our wonderfully brave, talented and committed members of the military that we do support them and we do understand the sacrifices they're making," he said.

Bloch's organization, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, recently brought a suit against a federal agency with the Merit Systems Protection Board on behalf of a reserve military member. He didn't say which agency, but noted this is the first time a federal agency has been sued under the provisions of USERRA.

USERRA suits against civilian

employers are brought by the Justice Department, but even those are rare. Bloch estimated roughly eight cases are referred to the Justice Department each year. Of those, perhaps five are litigated, he said.

With 1.2 million Reserve-component service members in the U.S. military, that shows a very low percentage of cases aren't resolved at the lowest levels, he said.

Hall explained that ESGR has 4,200 volunteers who work to educate employers throughout the country. Points of contact are posted prominently in all Guard and Reserve centers, and the names and numbers of state representatives are available on the organization's Web site.

In most cases, a phone call to an ESGR representative will solve a Reserve-component service member's problem. The ESGR representative will meet with employers to explain the requirements mandated by USERRA.

USARRA is a law many employers are unfamiliar with, Bloch said. "That's just one they kind of overlook until it confronts them," he said. "Then, when they learn about it, generally they say, 'Oh, whatever we need to do, we'll do.'"

**Now showing at AAFES Reel Time Theaters**

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matinees call respective theater or  
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**AT THE  
MOVIES**



**July 23-29**

Location Phone No.	July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29
<b>Casey 730-7354</b>	Troy	Troy	Spider Man 2	Spider Man 2	Godsend	Godsend	Breakin' all the Rules
<b>Essayons 732-9008</b>	No Show	Man on Fire	No Show	New York Minute	The Note Book	No Show	Laws of Attraction
<b>Garry Owen 734-2509</b>	No Show	The Note Book	Laws of Attraction	Man on Fire	Van Helsing	No Show	Van Helsing
<b>Greaves 734-8388</b>	The Note Book	Man on Fire	The Note Book	No Show	No Show	New York Minute	Mean Girls
<b>Henry 768-7724</b>	The Note Book	Van Helsing	The Terminal	Breakin' all the Rules	No Show	No Show	No Show
<b>Humphreys 753-7716</b>	Spider Man 2	Spider Man 2	Spider Man 2	Troy	Troy	Breakin' all the Rules	Godsend
<b>Hialeah 763-370</b>	The Terminal	New York Minute	Man on Fire	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show
<b>Hovey 730-5412</b>	Godsend	Spider Man 2	Troy	Troy	Spider Man 2	Breakin' all the Rules	Godsend
<b>Howze 734-5689</b>	Ella Enchanted	Envy	Man on Fire	No Show	No Show	No Show	Spider Man 2

**Spider Man 2**



Peter faces new challenges as he struggles with "the gift and the curse", desperately trying to balance his dual identities as the web-slinging superhero Spider-Man and his life as a college student. Peter finds that his relationships

with all those he holds dear are in danger of unraveling. His life is about to become even more complicated as he encounters a formidable new foe, Dr. Octavius.

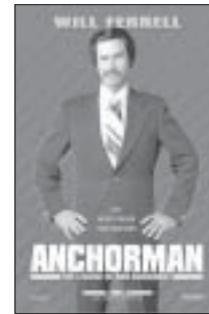
PG-13



**FREE TO IDENTIFICATION  
CARD HOLDERS  
(On U.S. Army Installations Only)**  
Schedule subject to change



**Anchorman**



Ron Burgundy is the top-rated anchorman in San Diego in the '70s. When feminism marches into the newsroom in the form of ambitious newswoman Veronica Corningstone, Ron is willing to play along at first—as long as Veronica stays in her place, covering cat fashion shows, cooking, and other female interests. But when Veronica refuses to settle for being eye candy and steps behind the news desk, it's more than a battle between two perfectly coiffed anchor-persons...it's war.

PG-13

Location Phone No.	July 23	July 24	July 25	July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29
<b>Kunsan 782-4987</b>	Garfield: The Movie	Garfield: The Movie	Troy	No Show	Troy	Breakin' all the Rules	Godsend
<b>Long 721-3407</b>	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban	No Show	13 Going on 30	Laws of Attraction	No Show	No Show	No Show
<b>Osan 784-4930</b>	Anchorman	New York Minute	New York Minute	Troy	Troy	Breakin' all the Rules	Godsend
<b>Page 721-5499</b>	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show
<b>Red Cloud 732-6620</b>	Spider Man 2	Troy	Troy	Breakin' all the Rules	Godsend	No Show	Anchorman
<b>Stanley 732-5565</b>	Troy	Troy	Godsend	Godsend	No Show	Anchorman	Breakin' all the Rules
<b>Yongsan I 738-7389</b>	Anchorman	Anchorman	Anchorman	Breakin' all the Rules	Breakin' all the Rules	Godsend	Godsend
<b>Yongsan II 738-7389</b>	New York Minute	New York Minute	New York Minute	Troy	Troy	Troy	Troy
<b>Yongsan III 738-7389</b>	New York Minute	New York Minute	New York Minute	Mean Girls	Mean Girls	Breakin' all the Rules	Breakin' all the Rules

# Chaplain's corner: Hold on, stay active in faith

**Chaplain (Maj.) Darin A. Nielsen**  
23rd Chemical Battalion

Most remember the words of actor Mel Gibson in the movie Brave Heart, when he was being tortured into submission; he showed unwavering commitment as he courageously yelled out "Freedom"!

If you are like me your skin was covered with goose bumps as it reminded me of a principle I hold dear.

We recently celebrated the Fourth of July. As U.S. Soldiers and family members, we reflect on this day as our "independence" as a nation.

For our Korean friends they celebrate their independence in August.

We have remained on the Korean Peninsula for over fifty years in support of Korea's freedom. And now

the U.S. led coalition serves in Iraq to help a nation—which has suffered tyranny for decades—that they too might know freedom.

The cost of freedom for the U.S., Korea and now for those serving and fighting in Iraq is high. For many the cost is life or limb.

Freedom is a powerful experience. Our Declaration of Independence reminds us that liberty is an "unalienable" right.

We were born to be free. Dictators and those who would crush men and women's wills by enslaving and treating them as subhuman must cease.

The New Testament scripture, Galatians 5:1 reminds us that God deeply desires us to be free: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let

yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

As people of faith we are reminded to keep "the main thing, the main thing". In other words we are to walk in relation to our God and live the values this involves. Otherwise, we go backwards rather than forwards in the faith process, and in our freedom.

While in Iraq very recently, I clearly remember the people on the streets in Mosul, celebrating new found freedom.

Often they openly expressed thanks for the role we played to help release them from Saddam's regime.

I remember many times ducking as we heard gunfire we thought was aimed at us, which turned out to be celebrative gunfire for freedom.

I still see faces of people who were

figuring out what to do now that they weren't oppressed. I remember the sights and smells in very small prison cells that robbed people of their will to survive, left behind from Saddam's regime. I hope that as freedom comes to Iraq they don't walk back into another form of oppression.

The people of Iraq must cling to their freedom and hold on for life. Insurgents will threaten their lives, in order to take them back to tyranny.

The New Testament challenges people of faith to hold on. We do this by maintaining our relationship with God, by staying active in faith communities and encouraging one another. We also face the threat that if we do not stay focused and diligent, our freedom could be lost.

## Area IV Worship Services

### Protestant

Collective	Sunday	10 a.m.	Camp Carroll
		10:45 a.m.	Camp Hialeah
		11a.m.	Camp Walker
Apostolic		12:30 p.m.	Camp Hialeah
Collective		12:45 p.m.	Camp Walker

Collective		7 p.m.	Camp Carroll
Korean	Sunday	6 p.m.	Camp Hialeah
Korean	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Camp Carroll
Korean	Wednesday	6:15p.m.	Camp Walker
Mass	Sunday	9 a.m.	Camp Walker

### Catholic

Mass	Sunday	9 a.m.	Camp Hialeah
Mass		11:30 a.m.	Camp Carroll

### Area IV Chaplains

**Chaplain (Maj.) Richard Bendorf**  
bendorfr@usfk.korea.army.mil or DSN 764-5455

**Chaplain (Capt.) Chris Floro**  
christopher.floro@us.army.mil or DSN 763-7395



Candidates look over a sand table that shows the layout of the common task testing area near Camp Humphreys.



Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Saunders puts blindfolds on Soldiers before the "Mystery Event" at the 8th Army Soldier, noncommissioned officer and Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldier of the Year competition at Camp Humphreys.



Staff Sgt. Camie Rodgers responds during a radio procedure test at the "Mystery Event."



Soldiers study area maps during land navigation tasks at Yeongin Mountain.



Spc. Whitney Taylor gives a visual signal during common task testing. Candidates were tested at seven stations on a variety of Soldier skills, including camouflage, first aid, reacting to indirect fire and others.

# Facing the Challenge

## Skills abundant, competition fierce as 8th Army selects its best Soldiers

### Area III Public Affairs Office

Eight Soldiers faced a challenge thrown down by 8th Army Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Welch and other senior enlisted leaders July 11-15: Show your stuff and win the chance to represent 8th Army in upcoming worldwide Department of the Army Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition.

Two Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldiers also competed locally for best KATUSA honors.

For five days in the Camp Humphreys area, they ran a gamut of challenges devised to energize mental and physical Soldier skills.

An easy-going welcome and icebreaker on day one was followed by an adrenaline-pumping physical fitness test the morning of day two and, only hours later in a classroom, by a written exam. Day three offered day and night land navigation tests on windy, misty Yeongin Mountain until nearly midnight.

### Meet the candidates

#### NCO of the Year

- Sgt. Samuel E. Cowell, Company B, 532nd Military Intelligence Battalion.
- Staff Sgt. Camie Ann Rodgers, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 43rd Field Artillery, 6th Cavalry Brigade.
- Staff Sgt Eric M. Vincent, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery

#### Soldier of the Year

- Spc. Wilfredo A. Mendez, Company A, 3rd Military Intelligence Battalion
- Spc. Whitney F. Taylor, 2nd Engineer Battalion
- Spc. Raymond A. Jones, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 34th Support Group

#### KATUSA Soldier of the Year

- Cpl. Kim Yoon-keun, 82nd Engineer Company (CSE)
- Cpl. Lee Yong-joo, 305th Quartermaster Company, 501st Corps Support Group

● denotes winner of the competition, ■ denotes finalist in the competition



Cpl. Kim Yoon-keun does vehicle preventive maintenance checks as 1st Sgt. Hopeton Staple grades his progress.



Staff Sgt. Eric Vincent decontaminates his equipment during nuclear, biological and chemical common task testing.



Sgt. Samuel Cowell reaches for part of his M-16A2 rifle during the "Mystery Event."



### Battle of the Bands Contest

Yongsan will be the site of a battle of the bands contest Saturday. Call 723-8502 or 723-8510 for more information.

### Weight Loss Support Group

Yongsan Weight Support Group is now accepting new members. The group is a free weight loss support group offering exercise and workout options, healthy eating support and weight loss support. E-mail nannyhere@yahoo.com or call 011-9699-7064 for membership information.

### Bowling Bucks

Throughout July, earn "Bowling Bucks" with every purchase of \$5 or more at local bowling centers in Area I. Prizes include 36-inch Striker Dolls or seven-day resort vacation package. For more information contact a local bowling center.

### Yongsan Batting Cage Championships

Now is the time for softball players to hone their batting skills at the Family Fun Park Batting Cages. Cash prizes will be offered to first and second place male and female batting champions in youth and adult divisions. The concept is simple. Just visit the batting cages between now and the Aug. 28 championships to practice hitting targets on the fence. For more information, call 738-4190.

### Auto Show

The Yongsan Auto Crafts Center will conduct an Auto Show on Sept. 18. The show will feature a variety of cars competing for bragging rights and cash prizes in the categories of best paint, interior, engine compartment and best overall. This event will feature lots of food, music, prize drawings and vendors. Participants from all over the peninsula are invited to bring their car and compete. For more information, call 738-5315 or 738-5419.

## MWR forecasts snow for Camp Humphreys

Story by Mike Mooney  
Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — Soldiers, airmen, civilian employees and family members at Camp Humphreys are digging out their winter mittens, ear muffs and parkas.

There's snow in the Saturday forecast for Camp Humphreys. At least, that's what Morale, Welfare and Recreation marketing officials think.

"Camp Humphreys rests in a rare tropical depression — something like the El Nino in the Pacific Ocean," explained Area III MWR Business Operations Division Chief Mike Ross.

"This depression means we can expect snow at Camp Humphreys while the remainder of Korea is basking in 90-degree temperatures.

Ross is so sure that a snow storm is coming that he has planned a traditional Christmas buffet for the Nitewatch 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. The menu includes turkey,

ham and all the trimmings.

"We're so sure it's going to snow that we will be giving the Christmas buffet to everyone free of charge if it doesn't," Ross said. "That's right: no snow and the buffet will be free."

The annual Camp Humphreys Christmas in July celebration starts 10:30 a.m. at the Nitewatch with a Winter Wonderland Poker Walk.

This is a family walk, and both kids and animals are welcome to walk along the Camp Humphreys perimeter.

Adult participants will draw a playing card when they register for the walk, and three more cards as they make their way around the 10-kilometer course. When they finish at the Nitewatch, they will draw their fifth card.

The best poker hand wins a round-trip airline ticket to anywhere in Asia. The airline ticket winner must be a U.S. ID card holder. The ticket has been provided by U.S. Airline Alliance. There are various other prizes, depending on the poker hand a

person draws, and all participants will receive a \$1 off the Christmas buffet coupon.

"Of course, if it doesn't snow, the coupon will be worthless," Ross laughed. "But it's going to snow."

Santa Claus is also sure it is going to snow, and will be at the Nitewatch noon-2 p.m., taking early Christmas orders from all the children of the community and posing for pictures.

The Christmas in July celebration concludes with Christmas karaoke at the Camp Humphreys Community Activities Center at 7 p.m.

"Pull out the mittens, the snowshoes and hook your poodles to a sleigh," Ross said. "The snow is on the way, and so is Christmas. Oh, by the way: anyone with a Dec. 25 birthday gets the buffet for free whether it snows or not."

E-mail MooneyM@korea.army.mil

## Wood leads Soldiers in U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team Trials

Story by Tim Higgs  
USACFSC Public Affairs

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Two Soldiers from the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program extended their Olympic dreams in the 2004 U.S. Olympic Wrestling Team Trials at the RCA Dome recently.

"Go Army — WCAP," Sgt. Oscar Wood exclaimed after earning the only Olympic wrestling berth for an "Army of One" in the tournament billed 'One Dream. One Weekend. One Shot.'

"The Army World Class Athlete Program prepared me and God gave me the talent," added Wood.

Fifteen Soldiers competed in the Olympic Trials, consisting of a two-day mini-tournament. The winners in each weight class then wrestled a best-of-three series against the national champions for 18 spots on Team USA — seven each in men's freestyle and Greco-Roman, four in women's freestyle.

In the 66-kilogram/145.5-pound Greco-Roman division, Wood opened like gangbusters, pinning 2000 Olympian and five-time national champion Kevin Bracken of New York Athletic Club in 1 minute, 47 seconds of the first match of their championship series.

"Lots of times you don't catch people — especially someone like Kevin," said Wood, a graduate of Oregon State University. "But he got caught and there was no way out of it. I wouldn't have bet on pinning him, but once I had the move — it was tight."

In his second match, top-seeded Wood prevailed 3-0 to secure a trip to Athens, Greece.

"I had this adrenaline rush that was like nothing I ever felt before when I got on the mat," he said. "I've always dreamed about being an Olympian. But to be an Olympian and a Soldier, that makes it all that much better — especially right now."

Bracken's final victory was a 6-0 decision over Spc. Glenn Garrison, who finished second in the mini-tournament.

After losing his first match in the championship series, Staff Sgt. Keith Sieracki won the 74-kilogram/163-pound Greco-Roman crown with two 3-2 overtime victories over top-seeded Darryl Christian of New York Athletic Club. The United States, however, failed to qualify for the Olympics in that weight class, leaving Sieracki hoping for a wild-card berth into the Games.

"I'm probably not going to get a chance to wrestle in the Olympics this year, so to me it's like I won two Olympic Trials and no Olympic team," said Sieracki, who won his weight class in the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials at Dallas only to lose his spot on Team USA to Matt Lindland's arbitration team. "All I want to say is go black and gold; go Army."

Without his weight class qualified for the Olympics, Sieracki moved up in weight class for the national championships but didn't want to wrestle his younger brother, Senior Airman Aaron Sieracki, who finished second at 84 kilograms/185 pounds in the mini-tournament.

Staff Sgt. Dremiel Byers lost his Olympic bid in a pair of 2-1 overtime losses to 2000 Olympic gold medalist Rulon Gardner of Sunkist Kids Wrestling Club in the 120-kilogram/264.5-pound Greco-Roman division's

battle of world champions.

"When we locked up in those clinches, I was out of position both times," Byers said of the first match. "In the last clinch, I felt like I had him just for a second but I realized I better let it go after I lost position."

Gardner and Byers will continue to train together at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Steel sharpens steel. We've always pushed each other," said Byers, who accompanied Gardner to the Pan American Games and World Championships last year as his training partner.

Two-time world silver medalist Spc. Tina George, the No. 1 seed in the women's 55-kilogram/121-pound freestyle division, was pinned twice by Tela O'Donnell of Dave Schultz Wrestling Club.

In the first match, O'Donnell was leading 4-3 when she pinned George with a headlock at the 5:57 mark. George was leading 6-2 when O'Donnell pinned her with a power half nelson move 4:12 into the second match.

"That's why wrestling is great — because anybody can win at any time," George said. "That kind of thing makes our sport. I did everything I could, and it didn't work out for me. This is the first time I've been anything but number one since I've been wrestling on the team, but it's not life or death. I'll move on and work on the next big part of my life."

Byers and George will be alternates for Team USA in the Olympics.

Sgt. Paul Devlin lost a 5-0 decision to Gardner in the super heavyweight Greco-Roman finale of the mini-tournament, during which several WCAP wrestlers retired from the world's oldest sport.

Teary-eyed 1st Lt. Dominic Black started the emotional outpouring when he walked across the mat to receive a forfeit for fifth place in the 96-kilogram/211.5-pound freestyle division.

Black said he did not leave his shoes on the mat — a wrestler's way of saying they are retiring — in respect to former world champion Melvin Douglas, who already had planted his boots to a thunderous round of applause after finishing sixth in their weight class.

Sgt. Kenny Owens, who finished fourth in Greco-Roman at 84 kilos/185 pounds, left his shoes on the mat shortly after Black left the arena to a standing ovation from the crowd of 8,639. Owens lost his final match 3-1 to Quincey Clark of Minnesota Storm Wrestling Club.

Staff Sgt. Glenn Nieradka also left his shoes on the mat, stirring the crowd to another rousing ovation, after dropping a 3-0 decision to Joe Warren of New York Athletic Club, in the 60-kilogram/132-pound Greco-Roman finals of the mini-tournament.

Spc. Iris Smith finished third in the women's 72-kilogram/158.5-pound freestyle division with a 7-0 victory over Satrinina Vernon of Gator Wrestling Club.

Sgt. Jason Loukides, who defeated R.C. Johnson of New York Athletic Club 4-2 in his final match, finished fifth in the 96-kilogram/211.5-pound Greco-Roman division.

Three other Soldiers placed eighth in their weight classes: Staff Sgt. Jason Kutz at 60 kilograms/132 pounds; Sgt. Anthony Gibbons at 55 kilograms/121 pounds; and Sgt. James Johnson at 66 kilograms/145.5 pounds.

## Hi-tech gadgets aid law enforcement effort

### Better tools mean safer roads in Area III

#### Area III Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — Several hi-tech electronic gadgets are helping military police enforce the law at Camp Humphreys. The end result, officials say, is safer roads.

What seems to be an ordinary rechargeable flashlight is actually a passive alcohol-sensing device that can signal trouble if a driver has been drinking too much. Three of the devices, which cost about \$650 each, are in use at Camp Humphreys.

“This is a fully functioning flashlight with a difference,” said Sgt. Eric D. Purnell, traffic investigator noncommissioned officer in charge at the Area III Provost Marshal Office. “It has a passive alcohol sensing gauge that will accurately let us know if a person is legally drunk.”

The flashlight can be used either inside or outside of a vehicle. Purnell said. If the gauge shows a “red line,” the person mostly likely has an alcohol level of .10, at which a driver is considered legally drunk by Army standards.

“Though this equipment has bolstered our ability to detect drunk drivers, it does not replace investigative prowess,” said Purnell. “We use other methods or devices as well to substantiate that a person is legally drunk.”

Another law enforcement “gadget” being used is the \$500, shirt-pocket sized Lifeloc portable breath tester.

“It’s a basic breath tester with an automatic feature that eliminates the possibility of error,” said Purnell. “Passive breath testers in the past had a margin of error because the operator had to actually press a button at the right moment to take a deep-lung sample. This device automatically detects the deep-lung sample. It can also be used manually.”

A person blows into a disposable mouthpiece, Purnell said, and the device beeps when it has analyzed a deep-lung breath sample that indicates the alcohol level. All the operator has to do is read the result on an electronic display screen. He said the device, which is accurate within one-hundredth of a percent, is approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation for law enforcement use.

The handheld, cordless Genesis VP directional traffic safety radar gun is being used to detect speeders. The radar guns cost under around \$800.

“This device will detect a speeder regardless of the direction of travel,” said Purnell. “What’s more, it is completely stand-alone. It can be used outside of a patrol car. That gives military police a lot more flexibility.”

Purnell said a military police person walking on the street wearing battle dress



PHOTO BY STEVE DAVIS

*Spc. Stephanie Davis demonstrates a directional traffic safety radar gun in use at Camp Humphreys. Davis is a traffic MP assigned to the 557th Military Police Company.*

uniform can easily use the radar gun undetected.

“After detecting a speeding vehicle, the MP can use a portable radio to notify a chase car,” said Purnell. “The chase vehicle would then stop the speeder and possibly issue a citation.”

“Everything we have here is high-tech,” said Purnell. “The overall intent is to make Camp Humphreys a safer place, and that is what it has done.”

The number of monthly traffic citations has dropped from 292 in January to 94 as of mid-July because Camp

Humphreys’ drivers know the Provost Marshal Office is serious about enforcing the law, said Purnell.

Also among gadgets in use are closed-circuit television cameras inside the Provost Marshal Office and outside in parking areas.

“The cameras allow us to keep track of what’s going on,” said Purnell. “Cameras assure the safety of everyone. With the closed-circuit system, we can record videotapes to document how certain situations were handled and use them to train military police personnel.”

### Adventures in babysitting



PHOTO BY STEVE DAVIS

*Instructor Amanda Coffman, front right, shows Babysitting Certification Class students one way to hold a baby as Jen Bosko explains. The American Red Cross instructors have conducted two babysitting classes for Camp Humphreys youth. Students from left are Sarah Hennies, Katie Alonso Holtorf, Christian Taliento, Jordan Coffman and Kendrick Ladd. Upcoming babysitting and basic aid classes for youth will be announced on the Area III command channel and in The Morning Calm Weekly.*

## Monsoon dumps 11 inches of rain; Soldiers look for places to stay dry

#### Area III Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — Monsoon rains dumped more than 11 inches of water on Camp Humphreys last week.

According to Senior Airman Mike Ragsdale of Detachment 2, 607th Weather Squadron at Camp Humphreys, 11.34 inches of rain fell between July 12 and July 18.

Ponchos, rain gear and dry places were popular items as Soldiers sought shelter.

One of the worst downpours was during the 23rd Area Support Group change of command, which required some Soldiers to be out directing traffic to the indoor event.

The monsoon season has ended, but heavy rain is possible through August because of tropical storms.



PHOTO BY STEVE DAVIS

*Soldiers from Detachment B, 516th Personnel Service Battalion practice first aid under a canopied area during a heavy rain July 16.*

## NEWS & NOTES

### Volunteer Recognition and ACS Birthday Celebration

Army Community Service will celebrate its 39th birthday between 11 a.m.-3 p.m. today in conjunction with Volunteer of the Quarter presentations. There will be games, music and food in front of the Camp Humphreys Army Community Service, Building 311.

### Free Patch Sewing Service

Area III officers and enlisted soldiers who have just arrived or have just been promoted may take their uniforms to the post exchange sewing shop concession and get their patches sewn on for free. Permanent Change of Station or promotion orders and a valid military ID card are required, along with the uniforms and patches. Contact unit command sergeants major or supply sergeants for details.

### Equal Opportunity

An Equal Opportunity representative course will be conducted Monday at the Distance Learning Center on Camp Humphreys. The course trains Soldiers selected to be unit EEO representatives. For more information, call 753-6527.

### School Physicals

Annual school physicals will be conducted at the Camp Humphreys Health Clinic 1-4 p.m. Tuesday. Students of all ages are welcome. It is recommended that the student wear a swim suit under regular clothes for ease of examination. Parents should bring student's medical and shot records and know the student's height and weight. For more information, call 753-8657.

### Spouse Orientation about the Republic

A two-day spouse orientation to the Republic of Korea workshop will be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the MWR conference room in Building 252, Camp Humphreys. The workshop covers community resources and Korean customs, culture and language. For more information, call 753-8782.

### Smoking Cessation Classes

Tobacco cessation classes are held 3-4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Camp Humphreys Health Clinic. For an appointment, call 753-8388 or 7657.

### Resume Writing and RESUMIX Assistance

Resume Writing and RESUMIX Assistance classes will be Aug. 3 at the Digital Learning Center at Camp Humphreys. The Resume Writing Class will be 9 a.m.-noon and the RESUMIX Assistance class 1-4 p.m. Preregistration is required. Space is limited to 16 students. Call 753-8321 or 753-8401.

### College Registration

Army Education Term I college registration will be 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday Aug. 2-20 at the Camp Humphreys Education Center. Tuition assistance is available for both traditional and distance learning education classes. For more information, call 753-8907 or 753-8909.

### Airport Shuttle

An Incheon Airport Shuttle leaves daily from the Camp Humphreys Community Activities Center. Cost is \$25 per person. The shuttle will stop at desired airline portals. Reservations required. For more information, call 753-8825.



Above: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daniel Macgregor plays with children at the Chon Hye Orphanage.

Left: Children line up to get their faces painted.

PHOTOS BY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 STEVEN HURTLE



Warrant Officer 1 Todd Long shows children motorcycles Soldiers rode to the orphanage.



Staff Sgt. Huy Ngyun and his wife Gina entertain children at the Chon Hye Orphanage.

## Aviators entertain kids at Chon Hye Orphanage

### Area III Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — When American and Korean Soldiers and family members from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment flew into Chon Hye Orphanage recently, they were prepared to have some fun.

Their activities with the children included Korea vs U.S. soccer (Korea won), water balloons, ice cream, face painting, an inflatable jumping room and an inflatable bungee run.

Another popular activity was a chance to sit on motorcycles Chief Warrant Officer 1 Todd Long and other Soldiers had taken to the orphanage.

“All of the children had fun,

especially with the face painting and soccer,” said Staff Sgt. Joe Serrano. “It was great to see so many faces full of enjoyment.”

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Phlegar said it was really good to be part of it.”

Capt. Ron Smith, 2nd flight platoon leader, said the whole crew was prepared to entertain the kids. As it turned out, he said, they were entertained just as much by the children.

“We brought 24 Soldiers, two Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldiers and five spouses,” he said. “Each of them went home tired, but with a smile.”

Smith said the unit hopes to return to the orphanage for more fun.

## Area III volunteers help repair home

### Korean widow's home gets a makeover

#### Area III Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — Heavy rain did not dampen the spirits of eight volunteers from Camp Humphreys June 19 as they worked to repair, repaint and spruce up an elderly Korean widow's home in the village of Anjung-ri just outside the Camp Humphreys gate. After about five hours, Yi Yong-nam had a new front door, new paint and new flooring in her home.

“There were a lot of smiles while we were working. We brought our own sunshine with us,” said Staff Sgt. Linda Rollocks, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 194th Maintenance Battalion.

The volunteers were members of Betty L. Simmons Chapter 166 Order of the Eastern Star.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. LINDA ROLLOCKS

Volunteers from Camp Humphreys team up to improve the home of a local Korean widow.

Rollocks said the group uses proceeds from monthly fundraisers to finance various charitable activities.

The group is looking to do more in the local community, said Rollocks.

Army Community Service staff

members Young Hui Straughan, outreach coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator Aggie Rodriguez have located several widows in Anjung-ri who have similar needs. Units or organizations interested in helping these women may contact Rodriguez at 753-8294.

# Johansen takes over at 23rd Area Support Group

Area III Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — Col. Gregory L. Johansen assumed command of the 23rd Area Support Group July 16 during a change of command ceremony at Camp Humphreys.

He replaces Col. Ronald G. Isom, who will become chief of Combat Services Support at the U.S. Army Futures Center at Fort Meade, Md. Isom had commanded the support group since July 2002.

The 23rd Area Support Group, with headquarters at Camp Humphreys, provides direct support maintenance, services and supply, aviation intermediate maintenance and ammunition support to U.S. Army units on the Korean peninsula.

Maj. Gen. Jeanette K. Edmunds, commander of the 19th Theater Support Command, commended Isom for his loyalty and selfless service.

“Colonel Isom knows that fulfilling obligations means more than just doing your job. He consistently strove for excellence in performance, not just the minimum required,” said Edmunds. “And he required no less from his subordinates. In every area, Ron worked to attain improvement and excellence.”

Edmunds cited the unit’s accomplishments under Isom’s command. Among them were:

- Aircraft readiness rates on the Korean peninsula were the highest of any Army fleets;
- Deployment support to 6th Cavalry Brigade units;
- Ammunition retrograde efforts to ship 29,000 short tons of unserviceable and outdated ammunition from Korea to the United States, freeing space for modern precision munitions;
- Implementation of a Site Improvement Plan that resulted in enhanced safety, living conditions and operating



PHOTOS BY STEVE DAVIS

Col. Gregory L. Johansen receives unit colors from Maj. Gen. Jeanette Edmunds.



Soldiers salute during the 23rd Area Support Group change of command ceremony July 16 at Camp Humphreys.



Guests bid farewell to the Isoms.

areas for ordnance companies across the peninsula;

■ Establishing a partnership program with Pyeongtaek University to foster relationships with students and the Korean community;

Edmunds welcomed Johansen, who was most recently the operations officer for the 1st Corps Support Command at Fort Bragg, N. C.

“Greg brings a wealth of background both as a combat arms officer and as a logistician,” said Edmunds. She called Johansen a “Korea man” because he is beginning his third tour in Korea.

Johansen addressed the 23rd Area Support Group Soldiers, saying, “I know of your great reputation of support to the 8th U.S. Army, and I will continue to

emphasize excellence in combat service support through tough training to high standards to accomplish this mission . . . I look forward to the challenges ahead and the opportunity to serve in this great unit with these outstanding Soldiers.”

Before the change of command ceremony attended by Soldiers, Department of Defense and Korean civilian employees and guests, Isom was presented the Legion of Merit medal by Edmunds, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense and a Certificate of Appreciation from the town of Paengsung. Ramona Isom was presented a “Helping Hand” award by Edmunds.



## Camp Carroll opens child development center

Story by Kevin Jackson

Area IV Public Affairs Office

**CAMP CARROLL** — A Child Development Center that opened for business Monday promises to ease childcare concerns for command- and noncommand-sponsored families at Camp Carroll.

The new facility offers a variety of full and part-time care and after-school programs for working families with children from 6 weeks of age to 18 years old or 12th-grade. The staff began distributing registration packets on July 12. Registration is ongoing.

Several surveys were conducted during the past few years to assess the community's need for childcare services. Lloyd Buster, the Camp Carroll Child and Youth Services director, conducted the last survey in June. He said it identified 17 families living in Waegwan, the community outside the installation, that are interested in some kind of childcare for infants and toddlers. Buster said another nine families living outside Waegwan, but working on the installation have also expressed an interest.

"The need exists and the number of potential children needing care are more than were indicated in the survey," he said.

Buster said families living in Waegwan are also interested in

School-Age Services, and the middle school and teen programs. He said that 40 children from the community were identified as potential participants in those programs.

Buster anticipates an enrollment of 36 or 37 children within the year, although his goal is 40 children.

"I really expect the facility to grow in numbers," he said. "I think we will really get community support and participation from the families here. Our facility won't survive without the community so we want to give them everything they want and need in a Child and Youth Services facility."

The one-story, 5,621-square foot facility, has separate rooms for the various age groups and offers the amenities parents would expect to find in a similar childcare facility in the United States.

The infant and pretoddler's room designed for children two years old and under includes cribs, strollers, a changing table, a toddler-size table and chairs, child safety mats, and manipulatives, which are spongy toys children play with to develop hand and eye coordination and motor skills. The room is even outfitted with toddler-size toilets and sinks, and cubbyholes for the children's use.

School-Age Services children from kindergarten through fifth-grade also have a room with a vinyl tent-like playhouse, toy kitchenette, dollhouse,

a sand and water table with a plastic basin, a variety of toys, table and chairs, and portable cots. The children can also engage in age-appropriate developmental activities.

The combined middle school and teens room is equipped with two televisions including one with a home theater system for watching movies, a stereo system, a pool table, and a checkers and card table. Buster said he is developing the new remote control car program at Camp Carroll, which will meet each month, and he hopes to get teenagers involved with it.

The CDC also has a computer and technology lab with three computers. Buster said the older children will primarily use it and that he expects to hire a staff member to teach computer technology skills in the future.

Completing the amenities is a fully furnished kitchen, which will allow preparation of breakfast, lunch, and morning and afternoon snacks for the children.

Yuil Engineering and Construction Co. from Seoul broke ground on the \$1.9 million project in October 2001, according to Kevin Jung, Camp Carroll Public Works director. Des Interior and Furniture Inc. completed the interior work. Construction finished in February this year.

Buster said some modifications are planned for one of the restrooms to

accommodate older children in the future and that appropriate age playground equipment will also be added.

"Over the past six months we got to where we needed to be to open," he said. "Over the next fiscal year we can be up and running, and be at operational percent capacity in no time."

Buster arrived in February from Sasebo Naval Air Station in Japan where he was the assistant director and training and curriculum specialist for CYS for 16 months. He has 16 years of experience working with training and program management, and previously worked for the Dallas Independent School District specializing in adolescent intervention programs for at-risk kids.

His staff includes a lead CYS assistant, four part-time CYS assistants, an administrative assistant, and a cook.

The CDC is another quality of life improvements made at Camp Carroll within the past two years.

"It (CDC) sends a message to the Soldiers and civilian employees that Camp Carroll is being taken care of," said Wilfred Plumley, Camp Carroll installation manager. "It's one more step to providing Camp Carroll with a quality facility it deserves and to making Camp Carroll the crown jewel of Area IV."

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## Area IV runners get a taste of Camp Carroll's winding roads



Marty Muchow, winner of the Area IV 10-mile race, crosses the finish line.

Story, photo by Pfc. Oh Dong-keun

Area IV Public Affairs Office

**CAMP CARROLL** — Sixty runners from across the southernmost geographic region in Korea came out early in the morning to take on the infamous five-mile course at the 2004 Area IV 10-miler held July 17 at Camp Carroll.

The runners ran the course twice to complete the required distance.

Marty Muchow, Defense Logistics Agency – Pacific, finished first in the men's senior category with the record of 59:50.

He was also the fastest in the entire competition.

"It was a good warm-up for me to get ready for the upcoming 8th Army 10-miler," Muchow said. "Although I came in first, I want to point out that the best runner in Area IV didn't run today."

Muchow said the 293rd Signal Company's Paul Lancaster is the best runner in Area IV.

Lancaster attended but only as a spectator. He said he didn't run because the race was

too close to the 8th Army 10-miler, which is scheduled for July 31.

In men's master category, which had the most participants with 31 runners, Jeong Cha-won from the Taegu Amateurs Running Club took the first place with a time of 1:03:51.

Following Jeong was Patrick Noble from Combat Equipment Battalion – Northeast Asia at Camp Carroll with a time of 1:05:09.

In men's open category, Ngo Nguyen, 229th Signal Company came in first with a time of 1:17:07.

Suh Myung-soo from 552nd Military Police Company at Camp Hialeah was second with a time of 1:23:35.

In women's open category, the fastest runner was Noreen Roberson, 307th Signal Battalion from Camp Carroll, with a time of 1:07:33.

Nancy Yacobucci from 552nd Military Police Company was the second place finisher with a time of 1:40:23.

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## NEWS & NOTES

### Polynesian Dance Performance

Maohi Nui, a Polynesian dance team, will be performing 8 p.m. Saturday at the Evergreen Club at Camp Walker. Optional dinner starts 5:30 p.m. and the door opens for the performance 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call Andre Thirkill at 764-4060. For more information, call Luis Rios at 768-7418.

### Offsite Consular and Immigration Services in Daegu

U.S. Embassy officers will be in Daegu at the Hotel Inter-Burgo 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to provide consular services. American citizens who wish to file applications or get more information about passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, federal benefits, voting information and notary services may come in during this time. For more information, check out their website at [www.asktheconsul.org](http://www.asktheconsul.org).

### Force Protection Training Alert

The 188th Military Police Company will be conducting force protection training and operations at Camps Walker, Henry and George Monday-July 23 and July 26-30. During this period, military police will be carrying weapons and sounding alarms. Do not be alarmed. For more information, call the Military Police desk at 764-5408.

### Daegu Commissary Early Bird Shopping

The Daegu Commissary will be conducting a test on early bird shopping Tuesday-Sept. 21. Early bird shopping will be 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays only. Shopping will be limited to 10 items or fewer during those times. For more information, call Celine Ruiz at 764-5311.

### Area IV Taxi Service

Area IV taxi service in Daegu will be temporarily suspended 9 a.m. to midnight July 26. Regular taxi service will be available 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. to accommodate morning commuters. It will then be suspended until midnight when normal service will resume. For more information, call Chung Young-kon at 768-6907.

### Area IV Women's Equality Day Celebration

The 19th Theater Support Command Equal Opportunity Office and the 20th Support Group Equal Opportunity office are hosting the Area IV Women's Equality Day celebration 11:30 a.m. Aug. 3 at the Evergreen Club at Camp Walker. The guest speaker is Carol McGee. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Monte Tartt at 768-6764 or Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie Buxton at 768-8542.

### Cyber Cafe Closure

The Camp Walker Cyber Café is closed while the Community Activity Center is renovated. For more information, call Chong Chu-yung at 768-7383.

### Tour and Travel Service and Car Rental Shop Relocation

The Camp Walker Tour and Travel Service and Car Rental Shop has been moved to the container located next to the Camp Walker Post Exchange. For more information, call Chong Chu-yung at 768-7383.

## 18th MEDCOM enters partnership with university

Story, photo by Pfc. Oh Dong-keun  
Area IV Public Affairs Office

**CAMP WALKER** – The 18th Medical Command formally entered into a training partnership with the Kyungpook National University School of Medicine July 8 at Wood Medical Clinic in Camp Walker.

Signing the memorandum of understanding formalizes an ongoing training partnership between the clinic and the medical school that was initiated by former clinic officer in charge Maj. Tzvi Robbins, according to Lt. Col. Ronald E. Smith, the recently departed 168th Medical Battalion commander.

"It's been about two and a half years since we've had students from the school come in to our facility to get some practical training," Smith said during the signing ceremony. "Today's ceremony made it an official training partnership, which will benefit more students in the future."

The memorandum covers the logistical and administrative aspects of the training. For instance, KNU will provide transportation to and from the clinic for its students and the clinic provides the facility and professional clinicians who will work with the students. The memorandum also covers pertinent legal issues.

"The memorandum sets up the legal framework for when the students are to interview patients what is permissible and what is not," Smith said.

"At Kyungpook National University School of Medicine, the purpose is to train medical students to be able to deliver health care," said Col. Philip Volpe, the recently departed commander of the 18th Medical Command, in his



Col. Philip Volpe, former commander of the 18th Medical Command, speaks during the partnership signing ceremony July 8 at Wood Medical Clinic in Camp Walker.

remarks. "What we do at 18th Medical Command at our facilities like this is actually delivering health care. So it is a great match that will enable us to have a mix of students and clinicians, which will empower both organizations in accomplishing their missions."

This is not the first time that a 18th Medical Command-affiliated clinic entered a training partnership with a local school, according to Volpe. He said the command entered a similar partnership with Yonsei University in Seoul at the 121st General Hospital eight months ago.

"This is the first Area IV outpatient clinic that has a formal partnership with a local school," he said. "It's really significant because Kyungpook National University School of Medicine is a world-renown medical school. It's great

to have those students come over to our facility. While they are here, the students will learn the language, American medical culture, how we deliver medical care to the U.S. citizens. (Training them) will return and benefit us in five, 10, 15 years when they are out there practicing medicine and we are sending patients downtown."

KNU students have the option to go anywhere in the world for two to four weeks to practice their skills and learn in a real-world environment, according to Dr. Park Byung-chul, dean of the KNU School of Medicine. Wood Medical Clinic is one of the options and KNU has been sending up to 20 students to the clinic each semester.

"(The clinic) has been one of the most popular places to go among the students ever since it's been a part of our program because students can get the experience without all the hassle of going abroad," Park said. "So we would like to open this great opportunity up to more students if situation permits."

Volpe also expressed hopes for the program's expansion.

"This is a great program that benefits both sides," he said. "I hope to expand the partnership to other areas with local medical schools."

The 18th Medical Command mission is to integrate, organize, resource, train, and support assigned and attached medical units to provide comprehensive health care support to 8th Army and all supported forces in Korea across the entire spectrum of plausible conflicts from peacetime engagements through combat operations.

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## VFW recognizes Area IV students with scholarships

Area IV Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HENRY** – Writing essays and presenting speeches aren't usually on the top of most people's list of fun things to do but it has paid off for two Area IV students who won the local 2003-2004 Veterans of Foreign Wars Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Contest awards.

Angela Hui Vandersys from Pusan American School won the Patriot's Pen essay contest and James Bradley from Taegu American School won the Voice of Democracy audio essay contest. Each received a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond for their winning entries.

Patriot's Pen, a youth essay writing contest, is a nationwide competition that gives students in the sixth through eighth grades the opportunity to write 300-400 word essay based in an annual patriotic theme expressing their views on democracy. This year, more than 116,000 students participated in the annual contest worldwide.

"Ms. (Nancy) Magoon, one of my teachers made (participating) an assignment," Vandersys said. "I was happy and excited to win. It provides scholarship money and can help with my college entrance applications. It was an honor to be recognized and I was happy to make my parents proud."

The Voice of Democracy is an annual national audio essay contest that is designed to foster patriotism by giving high school students in grades nine through 12 the opportunity to voice their opinion about their personal obligations as an American and address their responsibility to our country. Created in 1947, the scholarship program annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. Contestants write and record a three to five minute essay on an

annual theme.

Each regional winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C., plus the opportunity to compete for \$25,000 national scholarship.

"At first, I wasn't seriously considering writing for the contest, but my dad eventually coaxed me into doing it," Bradley said. "(This year's theme) really required me to do some deep thinking, and it gave me a new perspective of the United States. I think that the essay contest is a great way to motivate people into being more patriotic and to think seriously about our country and its foundations. The prize money isn't bad either."

The local competitions were sponsored by VFW Post No. 10033, Hill 303 Memorial Post in Daegu. Post-level winners have the opportunity to advance to district and, perhaps, the national level.

"This is a great opportunity for kids. It not only makes them think about the freedoms we enjoy but it gives them a chance to win prizes," said Troy Stone, 2003-2004 Voice of Democracy chairman, VFW Post No. 10033. "The participants raise some great issues. They can amaze you with their depth. They have pretty strong convictions and beliefs for their age."

The Patriot's Pen theme for 2004-2005 is "What Service to Our Country Means to Me." Voice of Democracy participants will submit tapes on "Celebrating Our Veterans' Service." The deadline for both competitions is Nov. 1.

For more information, contact Ken Swierzewski, 2003-2004 Voice of Democracy chairman, VFW Post No. 10033, at 768-8215.

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## Area IV swimmers shine in the 8th Army championships

Story by Pfc. Oh Dong-keun

Area IV Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HENRY** — Two swimmers from Area IV brought back home first place trophies from the 8th Army swimming championship July 10 at Hanson Swimming Pool in Camp Casey. Area IV sent six swimmers to this year's championship, which had 29 participants in three categories and nine events.

Cynthia Dennis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 307th Signal Battalion from Camp Carroll, won the women's 50-meter freestyle with a time of 35.99 seconds. She finished second in the women's 100-meter freestyle and the women's 100-meter breaststroke. She also was a part of the winning team in the women's 200-meter relay that included swimmers from Yongsan and Camp Casey.

Alain Fisher, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19th Theater Support Command at Camp Henry, won the men's open 200-meter freestyle with a time of 2 minutes, 43.77 seconds. He was also a part of the Area IV team that took third place in the men's 200-meter freestyle relay,

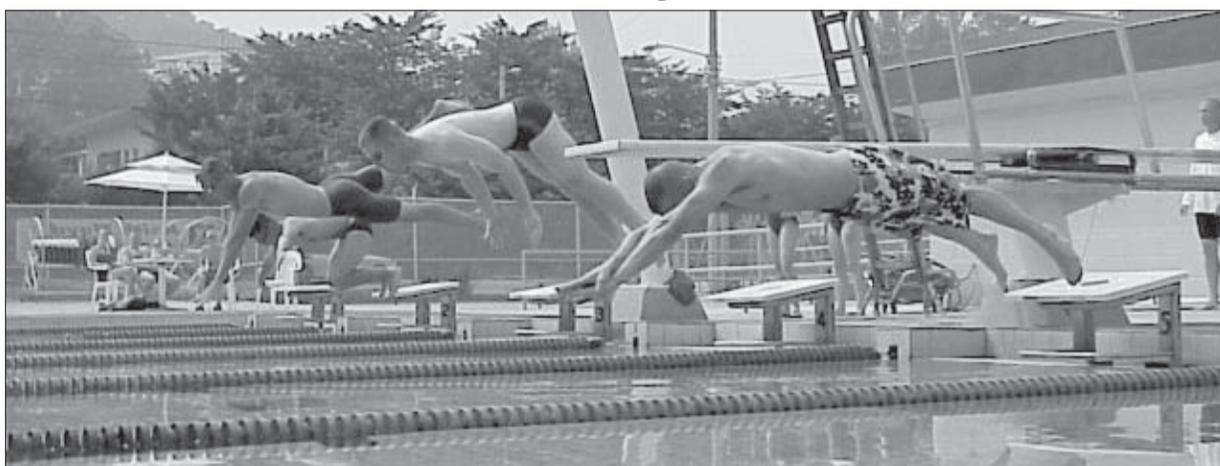


PHOTO BY KIM YONG-SOK

Swimmers jump into the water as they begin a race at the 8th Army swimming championships July 10 at Camp Casey.

along with Moon Suk-hwan and Jin Chang-kyoo from 552nd Military Police Company at Camp Hialeah.

"It was a nice competition," Fisher said. "It was a good experience for me to compete with the best from other areas. The KATUSAs in my relay team did really well. They contributed a lot to the team and helped us place

third."

"I am proud of our athletes," said Tom Corcoran, Area IV sports director. "They represented Area IV and their respective units really well."

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## Officer providing soccer gear, sports equipment to Iraqi youth

Story by Spc. Blair Larson

ArmyNewsService

**MOSUL, Iraq** — A civil affairs officer in northern Iraq is providing young people there with the equipment they need to pursue the popular sport of soccer.

Capt. Alex Fyfe, the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment civil affairs officer, said soccer has given him the opportunity to touch

the lives of many local Iraqi children.

The project started in March while Fyfe was at a meeting with local mayors of villages surrounding Mosul. When asked about what his village needed, one mayor said his village could use sports equipment. Fyfe had often seen children playing soccer on dirt fields with bare feet and improvised balls. Seeing an opportunity to help, Fyfe talked to his high school soccer coaches and friends back in

Rocky Point, N.Y., to see if they could donate some used soccer equipment.

The response was overwhelming. What began as an inquiry to a few friends, spread through word of mouth until people he didn't even know were sending boxes filled with uniforms, balls, shoes and school supplies for the children. After the story appeared in local newspapers and on television networks like FOX, the donations poured in.

"I've received so many donations from people I don't know," said Fyfe. "Some packages have come from as far as Japan."

When the boxes come in, they are divided into sports and school supplies so the Soldiers of the 1-37th can take them on missions to hand out to the children. The equipment may be taken to meetings and given to local leaders or it may be given to a boy who runs next to

See **Gear** on Page 28